

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4754

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF UNHRC VISIT TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 4737 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY TRANSMITS SUMMARY OF GOC EXPLANATION OF WHY PRESIDENT PINOCHET CANCELLED VISIT OF UNHRC STUDY GROUP. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT AND TO UN ASAP. TO US EXPLANATION IS FAR FROM CONVINCING, AND IT LENDS CREDENCE TO EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT PINOCHET WAS AHEAD OF HIS STAFF IN ANNOUNCING DECISION. HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT APPEARED TO BE AN UNCONDITIONAL REJECTION OF STUDY GROUP VISIT, AND SANTIAGO PRESS HAS SO TAKEN IT. EXPLANATION LEAVES OPEN POSSIBILITY OF VISIT LATER, UNDER UNDEFINED CONDITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HANDING AMBASSADOR ADVANCE COPY OF GOC STATEMENT ON CANCELLATION OF UNHRC STUDY GROUP VISIT TO CHILE (REFTEL), FONMIN CARVAJAL JULY 7 GAVE ORAL EXPLANATION OF GOC POSITION DRAWING ON STATEMENT BUT PRESENTING IT IN MORE REASONABLE LANGUAGE. KEY, FINAL TWO PARAGRAPHS WERE REPORTED IN REFTEL. BULK OF STATEMENT EXPLAINED GOC DECISION. STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED
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OUTSIDE USG UNTIL

GOC MAKES IT PUBLIC. SUMMARY FOLLOWS.

3. IN GESTURE THAT DID NOT SATISFY ITS "INTERNATIONAL DETRACTORS," STATEMENT SAYS GOC ACCEPTED VISIT OF UNHRC GROUP TO STUDY "PRESENT SITUATION" RE HUMAN RIGHTS. GOC COOPERATED FULLY IN PREPARING FOR VISIT.

4. IT WAS LATER SHOWN THAT CAMPAIGN OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED LIES AGAINST CHILE INTENSIFIED, PARTICULARLY IN UN FORUMS, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY ILO MEETING IN GENEVA AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE IN MEXICO WHICH SHOWED DISDAIN FOR UNHRC STUDY BY PREJUDGING SITUATION AND CONDEMNING CHILE. THIS DEMONSTRATED THAT DEFAMATORY CAMPAIGN WAS STILL DECEIVING WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AND THAT THERE WAS NO "SERIOUS DISPOSITION" IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA TO INVESTIGATE AND ADMIT TRUTH ABOUT CHILEAN SITUATION.

5. ORALLY, CARVAJAL EMPHASIZED FURTHER POINT THAT UNHRC WORKING GROUP HAD EXCEEDED ITS MANDATE TO INVESTIGATE "PRESENT SITUATION" BY TAKING TESTIMONY IN EUROPE AND NEW YORK FROM EXILES AND REFUGEES WHO HAD BEEN ABROAD FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION. FURTHERMORE, ON EVE OF GROUP'S ARRIVAL, THERE WAS DETECTED "SUBVERSIVE DESIGN" INTENDED TO PRODUCE "FALSE IMAGE" OF CHILE (CARVAJAL'S PHRASE) THAT WOULD UNFAVORABLY IMPRESS GROUP. DESIGN WAS INSPIRED BY RADIO MOSCOW; IT SOUGHT TO FILL EMBASSIES WITH "PHONY PERSECUTED POLITICIANS, FOMENT STREET AGITATION, AND UNLEASH GUERRILLA STRUGGLE." AIM WAS TO CREATE PUBLIC ALARM AND PROVOKE SECURITY COUNTER MEASURES.

6. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES LED GOC TO CONCLUSION GROU COULD NOT NOW CARRY OUT ITS TASK PROPERLY OR COME TO KNOW "PRESENT REALITY" OF CHILE. PENDING REESTABLISHMENT OF NECESSARY CONDITIONS OF OBJECTIVITY AND CARRYING OUT HIS PRIMARY DUTY OF PRESERVING DOMESTIC PEACE, PRESIDENT THEREFORE TO HIS GREAT TEGRET HAD TO HALT (DEJAR SIN EFECTO LA VISITA) STUDY GROUP VISIT "UNTIL MORE PROPITIOUS OCCASION."
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7. COMMENT: THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT HAS MERIT AND IS FIRMLY BELIEVED BY MANY CHILEANS. IT SEEMS FORCED, HOWEVER, AND NOT LIKELY TO CONVINCE THOSE WHO DO NOT ALREADY ACCEPT CHILEAN POSITION.

8. MOREOVER, GOVERNMENT EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECISION FOLLOWS BY SEVERAL DAYS ANNOUNCE-

MENT OF DECISION ITSELF; AND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS COUCHED
IN LANGUAGE SO TOUGH AS NOT TO ADMIT POSSIBILITY
OF COMPROMISE THAT IS IMPLICIT IN EXPLANATORY STATE-
MENT. THIS STRENGTHENS EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT PINOCHET
MOVED WELL AHEAD OF HIS STAFF, LEAVING TO THEM
UNGRATEFUL TASK OF JUSTIFYING WHAT HE HAD DONE.
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